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QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Wishful thinking - the longing to bend the present world into a different and better future - is often mocked, but the plain fact is that it is a regular feature of the human condition"

John Keane

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■ Ayodhya: verdict and consequence

DEEP K DATTA-RAY

An Indian court's ruling on the Hindu-Muslim dispute over the sacred site of Ayodhya sheds light on the relationship between two forms of rationality in India, says Deep K Datta-Ray.

■ This isn't the end of the far right in India

SAMIR JERAJ

To some observers, the recent Ayodhya verdict and lack of mass ethnic violence in India indicates the softening of nationalist tensions. But the subtler, more powerful and pervasive side of Hindu Nationalism in civil society will ensure that this is not the twilight of ethnic strife.

BEYOND THE SWEDISH MODEL

■ Celebrating the fanatically normal

TONY CURZON PRICE AND MACIEJ ZAREMBA

Sweden needs to reinvent itself around the idea of constitutionalism in order to create a future that is truly shared between new Swedes and older. An interview with Maciej Zaremba

■ The idea of the nation and the surge in Sweden's xenophobic right

TONY CURZON PRICE AND LARS TRAGARDH

The social democrats and the moderate right in Sweden have both abandoned the idea of the nation, leaving it to the extreme right. Listen to Professor Lars Tragardh of the Institute for Civil Society Studies at Ersta Sköndal University College in Stockholm on the Swedish election result

PUBLIC SERVICE BROADCASTING

■ LGB on the BBC

TOM WICKER

A recent report shows a loud but persistent minority are uncomfortable with the portrayal of lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) people in programmes aimed at child audiences on the BBC. Tom Wicker argues that the on-screen lives of lesbian, gay and bisexual people need to consist of more than confrontation and crisis if this is to change.

■ Should Murdoch be allowed to buy all of Sky?

DAVID ELSTEIN

It is understandable that people are fearful of Murdoch's power over the media, but there are no real grounds for Vince Cable to intervene in News Corp's takeover of BSkyB.

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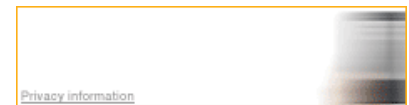
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From Our Sections

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■ A lesson for Luzhkov? Tatarstan's Shaimiev shows how to cling on to power

OLEG PAVLOV, 8 OCTOBER 2010

In March 2010, Minitimer Shaimiev, the two-decade figurehead of Tatarstan, resigned when prompted by the federal centre. It was the end of an era, locals thought, yet eight months on the Tatar President has yet to leave the building. Oleg Pavlov wonders whether obedient subordination and quiet diplomacy has allowed Shaimiev to avoid the fate of his opposite number in Moscow, Yuri Luzhkov

■ The new Labour shadow cabinet

GUY AITCHISON, 8 OCTOBER 2010

■ Chinese dissident wins nobel peace prize

OLIVER SCANLAN, 8 OCTOBER 2010

The Nobel Peace prize is awarded to one of China's foremost dissidents. Mohammad Abbas is set to seek Arab League backing for suspending dialogue with Israel over settlement construction. For the first time, a civilian peacekeeper has been abducted in the capital of Darfur. All this and more, in today's security update...

■ This isn't the end of the far right in India

SAMIR JERAJ, 8 OCTOBER 2010

To some observers, the recent Ayodhya verdict and lack of mass ethnic violence in India indicates the softening of nationalist tensions. But the subtler, more powerful and pervasive side of Hindu Nationalism in civil society will ensure that this is not the twilight of ethnic strife.

■ Afghanistan betrayed

CARLO UNGARO, 8 OCTOBER 2010

An overly obtuse and childish mentality by the Allied forces in Afghanistan between 2005 and 2006 has had devastating consequences for the mission. After destroying the country's fragile social structure and abandoning the Afghan people, Carl Ungaro argues that we will once again betray Afghanistan while celebrating with false confidence its "democratic" institutions.

■ LGB on the BBC

TOM WICKER, 8 OCTOBER 2010

A recent report shows a loud but persistent minority are uncomfortable with the portrayal of lesbian, gay and bisexual (LGB) people in programmes aimed at child audiences on the BBC. Tom Wicker argues

■ Gender, knowledge and change: questions and answers

SHELLEY ANDERSON, 7 OCTOBER 2010

When social change movements of all kinds are under attack, progressives need to build coalitions and to talk to one another as never before. Feminist models and methodologies can enrich every social change movement

■ Celebrating the fanatically normal

TONY CURZON PRICE AND MACIEJ ZAREMBA, 7 OCTOBER 2010

Sweden needs to reinvent itself around the idea of constitutionalism in order to create a future that is truly shared between new Swedes and older. An interview with Maciej Zaremba

■ The AfPak endgame

PAUL ROGERS, 7 OCTOBER 2010

Behind the escalation of United States cross-border raids into Pakistan and of Taliban attacks on coalition tanker-convoy lie the cold political reality of an unwinnable war.

■ Deciphering the Cameron and Osborne "revolution" - Old Whigs in a Breakdown

ANTHONY BARNETT, 7 OCTOBER 2010

The new leaders of Britain's government would like to be one-nation Tories, the times may not let them.

WEDNESDAY 6TH OCTOBER

■ Kyiv's Next Image Problem

ANDREAS UMLAND, 6 OCTOBER 2010

The vivid image of democracy - in colour orange - made many Europeans emotionally attached to the idea of Ukrainian EU membership. That is likely to change, writes Andreas Umland. The country is today facing a dangerous anti-democratic challenge — from the new President's authoritarian turn on the one hand and from a new right-radical movement on the other.

■ Religious secularity

JEROME DI COSTANZO AND RÉMI BRAGUE, 6 OCTOBER 2010

Is there a difference between secularity and secularism? Are they both essentially Christian, or essentially religious concepts? An interview with the arabist and medievalist, Rémi Brague

■ Should Murdoch be allowed to buy all of Sky?

DAVID ELSTEIN, 6 OCTOBER 2010

Gender, knowledge and change: questions and answers

Shelley Anderson

NATO: fiddling with nuclear bombs while the planet burns

Rebecca Johnson

On equal terms, please

Zainal Abidin Bagir

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The Drugs Policy Forum

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that the on-screen lives of lesbian, gay and bisexual people need to consist of more than confrontation and crisis if this is to change.

THURSDAY 7TH OCTOBER

■ **Pakistan condemns US drone use in north-west**

JOSEPHINE WHITAKER, 7 OCTOBER 2010

Pakistan condemns US drone use in north-west as Pak-US relations hit new low. Attack on British Embassy in Yemen highlights declining security situation there. Ugandan president offers to send 20,000 troops to bolster UN peacekeepers in Somalia. Guinean officials agree to run-off presidential vote date after weeks of delay. All this and more in today's security briefing.

■ **Sergei Magnitsky: a death that failed to die**

OLIVER CARROLL, 7 OCTOBER 2010

When Sergei Magnitsky died in police custody last November, few believed it would lead to anything more than a domestic ripple. Eleven months on, however, his case is being discussed by UK foreign secretary William Hague, and his name adorns a Congress bill banning US travel for Russian officials implicated in the death. Here we republish an interview with Magnitsky's former employer and key witness, Jamison Firestone.

■ **The "well groomed" females of Downing Street - how they afford it**

ANTHONY BARNETT, 7 OCTOBER 2010

A glimpse into the texture of Britain's new Prime Minister and his wife

■ **International donors must fund female-controlled HIV prevention gel**

CHI MGBAKO, 7 OCTOBER 2010

A potential breakthrough in HIV prevention is being stifled by a lack of funding. Chi Mgbako outlines the necessity of putting safeguards against HIV transmission into female hands.

■ **It is not all about Lula any more**

CONOR FOLEY, 7 OCTOBER 2010

In a surprisingly short amount of time Brazil's Partido dos Trabalhadores (PT) have come to be seen by many as the party of the establishment. The result has been a swathe of protest votes that have cost Dilma Rousseff an electoral majority and lead to a second round in which the Greens, though eliminated, may yet play a deciding role.

It is understandable that people are fearful of Murdoch's power over the media, but there are no real grounds for Vince Cable to intervene in News Corp's takeover of BSkyB.

■ **NATO: fiddling with nuclear bombs while the planet burns**

REBECCA JOHNSON, 6 OCTOBER 2010

Next month NATO members meet in Lisbon to agree on a new Strategic Concept. Rebecca Johnson argues that if we treated nuclear weapons as the previous century's problem to be disposed of, instead of fetishizing them as instruments of high strategic value, we would stand a far better chance of maintaining global security

■ **Delhi 2010: Where did it all go wrong?**

SATBIR SINGH, 6 OCTOBER 2010

With the Commonwealth Games underway, Satbir Singh traces the psychology underpinning India's celebration of and embarrassment at the event.

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